

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

/058 W

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R 261221Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1400

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 299

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: SECURITY: DRAMATIC CAPTURE OF EIGHT TERRORISTS

1. ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) CAPTURED EIGHT TERRORISTS AUGUST 25 IN DRAMATIC SERIES OF EVENTS INCLUDING HIGH SPEED VEHICLE CHASE, EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE, BOMB EXPLOSION, AND SIEGE WITH HOSTAGES HELD BY GUNMEN. SCENARIO BEGAN WITH POLICE OBSERVING AUTOMOBILE AND VAN ENTERING PROTESTANT SOUTH BELFAST AT FINAGHY CROSSROADS FROM ANDERSONSTOWN DIRECTION. BELIEVING PASSENGERS ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY, POLICE GAVE CHASE. IN PROSPEROUS MALONE AREA OFF LISBURN ROAD VEHICLE TURNED INTO CUL-DE-SAC AND THOSE IN VEHICLES ABANDONED THEM IN EXCHANGE OF SHOTS WITH PURSUERS. ONE TERRORIST WOUNDED AND APPREHENDED. ONE TERRORIST HIJACKED CAR FROM NEWARBY RESIDENCE AND APPREHENDED SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY. THERE MORE SURRENDERED WHEN CORNERED. REMAINING THREE DETECTED IN COURSE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH OF NEIGHBORHOOD WHEN FEMALE RESIDENT BEING HELD HOSTAGE ALERTED POLICE AND ESCAPED. TERRORISTS HELD ANOTHER HOSTAGE, A GARDENER. POLICE AND ARMY SURROUNDED HOUSE AND, AT REQUEST OF TERRORISTS, BROUGHT IN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST AS NEGOTIATOR. ABOUT TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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HOURS LATER THE TERRORISTS SURRENDERED. HOSTAGE WAS UNHARMED.

ABANDONED VAN WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN TWENTY POUND BOMB WHICH
EXPLODED CAUSING SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE TO SURROUNDING HOUSES.

2. RUC APPARENTLY USING NEW TECHNIQUE IN THAT VEHICLES
EXITING PROVISIONAL IRA TERRITORIES ARE BEING CLOSER ATTENTION
THAN PREVIOUSLY. THIS CANNOT BE EFFECTIVE AS "SEALING OFF THE
GHETTOES" AS DEMANDED BY SOME LOYALISTS, BUT NEITHER IS IT AS
OFFENSIVE TO MINORITY COMMUNITY.SPICER

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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